



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 209546-081558		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA416)	
International application No. PCT/US 03/34070	International filing date (day/month/year) 27.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.10.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B60R11/02			
Applicant INTIER AUTOMOTIVE INC. et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 03.06.2004		Date of completion of this report 18.04.2005	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer D'Sylva, C Telephone No. +31 70 340-2745 	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**International application No. **PCT/US 03/34070****I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-4 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-14 as amended (together with any statement) under Art. 19 PCT

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-14
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-14
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-14
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item V**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6 061 460 (SEO YEOL-GU) 9 May 2000 (2000-05-09)

2. **Novelty - claim 1:**

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

An assembly, comprising:

- a trim panel (20) having an inner surface and a generally continuous surface;
- an attachment member (52,66,76) integrally formed with said inner surface;
- and
- an acoustic device (26) capable of being mated to said inner surface of said trim panel.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known assembly by the following special technical features ; said attachment member includes a ramp surface such that rotation of said acoustic device draws said acoustic device toward said trim panel.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3. **Inventive step - claim 1:**

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as having a loose attachment of the acoustic device once it is fitted between the trim panel (20) and the rotatable fixing member (60).

On the other hand, the mounting assembly is designed with two different

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components, the acoustic device (26) and the rotatable fixing member (60), which leads to a costly manufacturing, storage and mounting process.

The solution to these problems is proposed in claim 1 of the present application, for the following reasons:

It is clearly said in claim 1 that the rotation of the acoustic device draws said acoustic device toward said trim panel; this means that;

- There is no more loose fitting between the acoustic device and the trim panel.

- mating means with the attachment means of the trim panel and acoustic device represent one single component.

This design solves the two above cited problems.

Subject-matter of claim is therefore considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4. Independent claims 2 to 14 :

Claims 2 to 14 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

5. Industrial applicability:

Automotive industry.

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From-Honigman, Miller, Schwartz, Cohn

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BEST AVAILABLE COPYClaims

What is claimed is:

1. An assembly, comprising:
a trim panel having an inner surface and a generally continuous outer surface;
an attachment member integrally formed with said inner surface; and
an acoustic device capable of being mated to said inner surface of said trim panel,
wherein said attachment member includes a ramp surface such that rotation of said acoustic device draws said acoustic device toward said trim panel.
2. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein an upper surface of said acoustic device is generally planar to said inner surface of said trim panel when said acoustic device is mated to said trim panel.
3. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said attachment member includes at least one generally L-shaped mounting portion defining said ramp surface.
4. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said attachment member includes two diametrically opposed generally L-shaped mounting portions to define said ramp surface.
5. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said acoustic device is rotated counterclockwise along said ramp surface toward said trim panel.
6. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said acoustic device is rotated clockwise along said ramp surface away from said trim panel.
7. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said attachment member defining said ramp surface is generally arcuate in shape.

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8. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said attachment member includes at least one detent and said acoustic device includes at least one corresponding recess for receiving said detent to fixedly attach said acoustic device to said trim panel.

9. The assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said at least one detent is integrally formed on said inner surface of said trim panel.

10. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said acoustic device includes at least one detent and said attachment member includes at least one corresponding recess for receiving said detent to fixedly attach said acoustic device to said trim panel.

11. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said trim panel includes two diametrically opposed detents and said acoustic device includes two diametrically opposed recesses for receiving said detents to fixedly attach said acoustic device to said trim panel.

12. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said trim panel is generally continuous.

13. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said acoustic device has an opening to receive said attachment member.

14. The assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said opening further includes a pair of diametrically opposed cutouts to receive said attachment member.